

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:725
ANSWERED ON:22.10.2008
RELEASE OF FOREST LAND
Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of forest land released for various projects during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) the details of cases pending before the Government for environmental clearance during the said period; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

- (a) The proposals approved under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for various purposes during the last three years and current year involved 202,177.64 ha and 26,342.64 ha of forest land respectively. The details are enclosed as Annexure-I & II.
- (b) The number of cases pending for Environmental Clearance as on 30.09.2008, is 407. The sector-wise details is at Annexure-III.
- (c) The projects are appraised as per the EIA Notification, 2006. For the projects falling under category 'A', Environmental Clearances are issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests in 105 days after receipt of complete details. For the projects falling under Category 'B', Environmental Clearances are issued by the concerned State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA). The SEIAA for 20 States have already been constituted. The Expert Appraisal Committees of different sectors meet regularly for reducing the pendency.